



Devotions

Advent 2005



The Christ Candle

On Christmas Eve, light the four Advent Candles, repeating their names; then light the center Christ Candle, as you say together: "Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.'"

The Christ Candle symbolizes Christ's presence in our world. Now all the candles are burning. Christ is born! What cause for rejoicing!

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."*

*Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure Light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

The words of this beautiful carol were written by Joseph Mohr, the parish priest of Arnsdorf, Austria, December 23, 1818. He took the poem to the church organist, Franz Gruber, who wrote the music that night. Mice had eaten out the church organ, so the carol was sung in the church the following evening to guitar accompaniment.



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Other carols for Christmas Eve:

"Away in a Manger"

"Joy to the World"

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Christmas Eve--Luke 2:1-20

(See the note in the introduction regarding Christmas Eve. Make this a very special day for yourself and your family and friends. Plan a special time using drama, song, or whatever will help you concentrate on and capture the awe of this special day.)

During Advent we have studied, learned, and thought about many aspects of Christ's birth. As we read Luke's account again now, let's picture in our minds as vividly as we can what happened when Christ the Messiah was born as a real, human baby. Remember, this is not a made-up story. It is all true. All that we've read is what really happened. What is the most exciting part for you? Just as there are many gifts under the tree, there are many aspects to God's gift of His Son to us. Rejoice and praise God for as many of these as you can think of.

Let us praise and worship Christ the Lord, the newborn King. What a special privilege to celebrate the coming of the Messiah!

Christmas Day

Christ came as a real, human baby at His first coming. When He comes again it will be as a Ruler, King, and Lord over all. Is He your King now?

After the last present is unwrapped, the tinsel put away, the last cookie eaten, what are we left with? A feeling of emptiness and futility? Or a heart full of thankful praise to God for sending His Son to be our King?

Thank the Lord for Christmas, and all that it means for us.